

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 4, 2006. Claims 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 27 were indicated as allowable. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 13, 16-18, 20, 21, 23 and 24 were rejected.

Claims 1, 4, 6-13, 15-24, 26 and 27 remain in the application. Claims 1-27 were originally presented. Claims 2, 3, 5, 14 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 13, 15, 17, 21 and 24 have been amended. Claims 4, 6, 9, 13 and 15 were amended to correct dependency or for clarity, not for reasons related to patentability and without narrowing the scope thereof.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 19, 22, 25, 26 and 27, if rewritten in independent form or to overcome rejections under section 112, is acknowledged with appreciation.

Therefore, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 2, and is thus allowable. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 14, and is thus allowable. Independent claim 24 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 25, and is thus allowable.

Independent claims 17 and 21 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter in allowable claims 2 and 11, and are believed to be allowable.

Objection – Specification

The specification was objected to for lacking a summary. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection and notes that a summary is not required by law or rule. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 13 were rejected under § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the tube.

Claim 5 has been canceled.

Claims 9 and 13 have been amended for clarity.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 13 and 21 (including independent claims 1, 10 and 21) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Molimard.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include allowable claim 2. Independent claim 10 has been amended to include allowable claim 14. Independent claim 21 has been amended to include allowable claim 11. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 13 and 21 are allowable.

Claims 17 and 18 (including independent claim 17) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Clemens.

As discussed above, independent claim 17 has been amended to include allowable claim 2. Therefore, claims 17 and 18 are allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6, 16, 20, 23 and 24 (including independent claim 24) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Knirsch in view of Molimard.

As discussed above, independent claim 24 has been amended to include allowable claim 25. Therefore, claim 24 is allowable.

Dependent claims 6, 16, 20 and 23 are dependent on allowable independent claims, and are therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 4, 6-13, 15-24, 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Robert Wasson at (360) 212-2338 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

DATED this 27 day of June, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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